

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /015 W
-----121666 201841Z /43
P 201721Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8385

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FOR H TO PASS TO SENATOR BYRD FROM AMBASSADOR BREWSTER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CONSERVATIVE VIEWS ON SANCTIONS

1. AT THE REQUEST OF SOME CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT--SOME OF WHOM HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOU DURING YOUR RECENT VISIT--I AM SENDING HERewith THE STATEMENT OF THE FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN FO THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY. THEY INSIST THAT THE STATEMENT REFLECTS THE OVERWHELMING MAJTRITY OF CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. THEY URGE ME TO CALL THIS TO YOUR ATTENTION IN ORDER TT CURE THE MISIMPRESSION THAT BRITISH CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS. I ASSURED THEM THAT YOU WOULD NOT LOOK UPON THIS AS OFFICIOUS INTERMEDDLING BUT WTULD APPRECIATE THEIR DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORTHCOMING SENATE RECONSIDERATION OF THE HELMS PROPOSAL TO LIFT SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA.

UNCLASSIFIED STATEMENT FOLLOWS:
QUOTE:

LIFTING SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA AT THIS STAGE WOULD INHIBIT ANY PROSPECT OF A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN
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THE CONFLICTING PARTIES, SAYS SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY, JOHN DAVIES.

BUT, HE SAYS, THE REMOVAL OF SANCTIONS AS SOON AS A RHODESIAN ELECTION HAS TAKEN PLACE IN "FAIR AND FREE CONDITIONS" SHOULD BE THE "CLEAR OBJECTIVE OF ALL THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE ISSUE."

MR. DAVIES HAS PUT THESE VIEWS TO SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE WHO HAVE WRITTEN TO HIM ABOUT THE RHODESIAN SITUATION FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM A FACT FINDING TOUR TO THAT COUNTRY AND ZAMBIA EIGHT DAYS AGO.

MR. DAVIES SAYS IN HIS LETTER TO THEM:

"THE PROBLEM OF SANCTIONS IS A SEVERE ONE. THEY ARE UNDOUBTEDLY HARMING THE COUNTRY AND REDUCING ITS ABILITY TO DE-ESCALATE THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE.

"THEIR REMOVAL AT THIS STAGE WOULD, HOWEVER, IN MY JUDGMENT, INHIBIT ANY PROSPECT OF A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE CONFLICTING PARTIES. MOREOVER, IT COULD ONLY SERVE AT THE PRESENT JUNCTURE TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF TERRORISM, TO MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE PROSPECT OF AN ELECTION AND TO ACCENTUATE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND OUTSIDE IT."

MR. DAVIES' CONCLUSION FROM HIS VISIT IS THAT THE WHOLE SITUATION HAS "REACHED A POINT OF CRISIS AS TO REQUIRE MUCH MORE DECISIVE ACTION THAN HAS HITHERTO BEEN DEPLOYED BY THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS."

OVER THE PAST FOUR MONTHS AN ALREADY DANGEROUS SITUATION HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO DETERIORATE WITHOUT ANY REAL EFFORT HAVING BEEN MADE TO RECONCILE THE CONTESTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTIES.
HE SAYS:

"THE RESULT HAS BEEN A PROGRESSIVE LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN RHODESIA ITSELF IN AN ULTIMATE SOLUTION;

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A STEEP DECLINE IN THE RHODESIAN ECONOMY; A HORRIFYING INCREASE IN ACTS OF VIOLENCE; AND FINALLY A CONTINUING DRAIN AWAY FROM THE COUNTRY OF THE EUROPEAN ELEMENT UPON WHICH ALL CONCEDE THAT THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF THE COUNTRY DEPENDS.

"THERE IS STILL A SLIGHT CHANCE OF RECOVERING THIS UNHAPPY SITUATION BUT IT REQUIRES FIRM AND DECISIVE ACTION BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IF POSSIBLE IN CONCERT WITH THE AMERICANS.

"THE ACTION NEEDED IS THE FOLLOWING. FIRST, TO INSTALL A CONTINUOUS HIGH GRADE MISSION IN SALISBURY HEADED BY A BRITISH PERSONALITY OF UNQUESTIONABLE PRESTIGE AND AUTHORITY. THIS MISSION NOT ONLY TO ACT AS A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION, BUT TO OFFER SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE COUNTRY ITSELF IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT THE ELECTION BY THE END OF THE YEAR UPON WHICH ALL PARTIES AGREE, HOWEVER MUCH THEY MAY DISAGREE ABOUT OTHER MATTERS.

"SECONDLY, TO USE ITS GOOD OFFICES IN A DETERMINED BUT CONFIDENTIAL EFFORT TO RECONCILE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CONTESTING PARTIES WHICH STILL COULD BE ACHIEVED, ALTHOUGH THE PROSPECT OF DOING SO IS FAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISAPPEARING.

"AND THIRD, TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO ALL PARTIES THAT ONLY BY MEANS OF COMPOSITION OF THEIR DIFFERENCES AND THE RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS BY AN ELECTION IN WHICH THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE CAN BE DECLARED, IS A SOLUTION TO BE ATTAINED WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AND RECOGNIZABLE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD."

END QUOTE

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